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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, our hearts are filled with gratitude. We are thankful that You have chosen to be our God and chosen us to know You. Your love embraces us and gives us security, Your joy uplifts us and gives us resiliency, Your peace floods our hearts and gives us serenity, Your Spirit fills us and gives us strength. You have blessed us with the privilege of prayer so that we could receive Your wisdom and guidance. With never-failing faithfulness You hear and answer our prayers as we seek first Your will and the courage to do it. During the intensely busy past few weeks, You have been with the Senators through long days and late evenings. You have honored their commitment to hard work. Thank You for the magnitude of legislation that has been accomplished. Grant the Senators and all who work with them the perspective of taking victories and defeats in stride. Our best efforts are incomplete so we press on; our steps in each day are only part of the long journey of progress, so we do not lose heart.

We commit this day to You and ask that You will grant us a second wind of renewed energy and vision for the challenges ahead of us today. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Our able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this is the day we can accomplish an awful lot for

the American people in passing conference reports which are completed and ready to go to the President for his signature. Truly monumental accomplishments can be achieved today—or tomorrow. We have a lot of work to do, but it is work that we can finish, I think, in a responsible and agreeable way.

For the information of all Senators, there are a number of important matters that are available for consideration that I hope the Senate will be able to proceed to and complete action on today. I understand at this time that the D.C. appropriations conference report, the military construction appropriations conference report, the Department of Defense authorization conference report, the legislative appropriations conference report and the health care reform conference report are available for Senate action. I hope all my colleagues will cooperate in allowing the Senate to do its business and complete action on these measures prior to recess.

It is also still my intention to consider the Veterans' Administration, Housing and Urban Development appropriations matter this week. We need to get that bill completed so we can get into conference. Our veterans and people who seek the American dream of home ownership are dependent, in many instances, on this very important legislation. This is a bill I believe we can get completed, get it into conference, and then move it on to the President early in September.

I will, once again, remind my colleagues there is a lot of work to be done and not a lot of time to accomplish it if we want to get out sometime today or tomorrow to go be with our constituents in our respective States. Therefore, Members can expect a full day and evening with rollcall votes throughout that time. Also, it may be necessary for the Senate to convene to-

morrow, if we are unable to complete action on these important matters.

Mr. President, if I could continue, I am prepared now to ask consent to approve the nomination of Ann Montgomery to be a district judge for Minnesota. I would like to do that. I am also, though, then going to move to approve the Commodities Futures—CFTC nominees. I believe there is a Republican nominee and a Democratic nominee. That has been held up for weeks and weeks and weeks. After a lot of effort and serious consideration we have cleared that. We are ready to go with that.

We need desperately to have the Chief of Naval Operations in place. It has been a very slow but very careful consideration of the next admiral to be the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Johnson. His nomination is ready to be moved, along with a long list of other military personnel that deserve the opportunity to have their nominations completed. I would like to do that.

We have a number of other very non-controversial actions that we can take, including the naming of Federal buildings and a list—I mentioned some of them last night that we can get approved. So I am prepared to get started with that. I hope that would break through the logjam and get things started in the right direction.

I am prepared also to begin discussing the D.C. appropriations conference report, the military construction appropriations report, the legislative appropriations conference report, and also to begin discussion on the all-important health insurance reform package. Is it perfect? No. Is it everything we want? I know it is not. But it is a major, major step forward for the women and men and children of this country—the guarantee of available and affordable health care. Could we leave this building tonight, not having done that?

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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